

**Slimewater Creek Density Management
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

South River Field Office
EA# OR-105-99-13

Date Prepared: February 12 , 2001

Finding of No Significant Impact

The South River Field Office, Roseburg District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has completed the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Slimewater Creek Density Management Project. Two alternatives were analyzed consisting of a no action alternative identified as Alternative 1, and a proposed action identified as Alternative 2. The Alternatives are described in Chapter 2 of the EA (pp. 5-10).

The following Critical Elements of the Human Environment would not be affected by the proposed Slimewater Creek Density Management Project: Non-Native, Invasive Species; Wastes, Hazardous or Solid.

The proposed Slimewater Density Creek Management Project is consistent with Executive Order 12898 which addresses Environmental Justice in minority and low-income populations. There would be no impacts to low-income or minority populations that have been identified by the BLM internally or through the public involvement process. Correspondence with local Native American tribal governments did not identify any known unique or special resources in the project area which provide religious, employment, subsistence or recreation opportunities. Employment associated with the project would be performed by local contractors who engage in similar types of work throughout Douglas County.

Correspondence with local Native American tribal governments did not identify any religious concerns or values associated with the project area, so there would be no effect on potential Native American Religious Concerns (Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(8)).

The proposed Slimewater Density Creek Management Project would not occur in or on wetlands, park lands, prime farmlands, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, or Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. No unique characteristics would be impacted (CEQ Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(3)).

Surveys for cultural resources have been conducted. Section 106 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act have been completed by the BLM in accordance with the 1998 Oregon State Historic Preservation Office protocols (EA, Chapter 3, p. 20). As a consequence, there would be no impacts to scientific, cultural, or historical resources (CEQ Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(8)).

No adverse impacts to fish or wildlife were identified in the EA as a consequence of the Slimewater Density Creek Management Project (EA, Chapter 4, pp. 35-38). Surveys for special status species have been conducted. The only special status species known to utilize the project area is the federally-threatened northern spotted owl. The project area does not provide suitable nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat and primarily provides dispersal habitat. It was determined that the proposed action would constitute a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination for the owl, because modification of existing dispersal habitat would only affect its utility in the short term and would have a negligible likelihood of affecting owls in the project vicinity. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is in progress. No listed fish species reside in the immediate project area. The project is considered to have a negligible likelihood of affecting fish populations or critical habitat downstream of the project area. As a consequence, a “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” determination was made for the Oregon Coast coho salmon and Oregon Coast steelhead trout. Conferencing with the National Marine Fisheries Service is in progress. All required mitigation, including Terms and Conditions contained in any Biological Opinions from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service, would be implemented. As a consequence, there would be no significant adverse impacts to any special status species (CEQ Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(9)), and any impacts would be within the range and scope of those analyzed in the Roseburg District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement.

The project is consistent with applicable Federal, State, and local laws (CEQ Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(10)). The impacts of the proposed action on the human environment do not exceed those anticipated in the PRMP/EIS.

As a result of the analysis, of the twelve points listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b), the following were considered and were found not to apply to the proposed action: significant beneficial or adverse effects; significant effects on public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; anticipated cumulatively significant impacts; highly uncertain or unknown risks; and no precedents for future actions with significant effects.

Based on the analysis of potential impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I have determined that the proposed action will not have significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP) for the Roseburg District, approved by the Oregon/Washington State Director on June 2, 1995.

E. Dwight Fielder
Field Manager
South River Field Office

Date